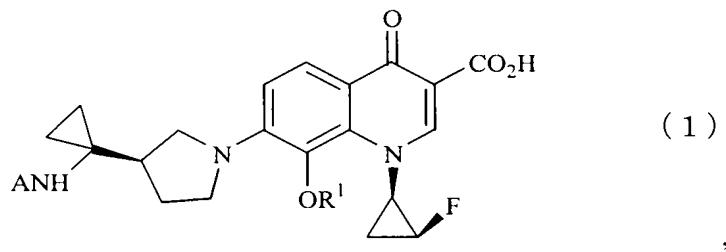


IN THE CLAIMS

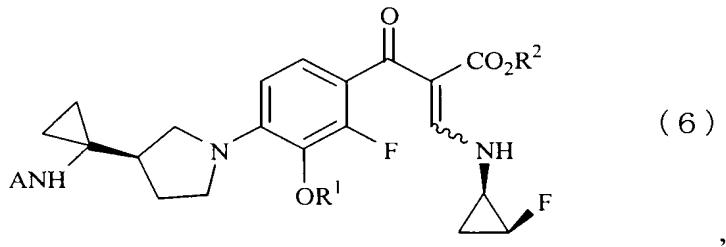
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a compound represented by formula (1) from a compound represented by formula (6), comprising:  
treating the compound of formula (6) with a base in a water-containing solvent;  
where formula (1) is:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a lower alkyl group and A represents an amino-protecting group; and

where formula (6) is: which comprises treating a compound represented by formula (6):

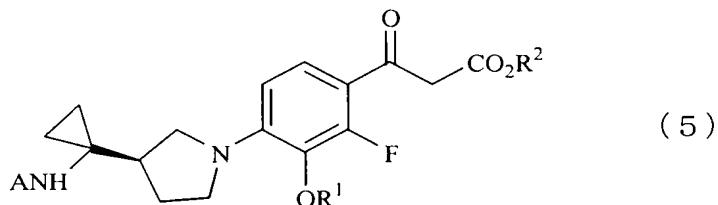


wherein R<sup>1</sup> and A are as defined above and R<sup>2</sup> represents a lower alkyl group with a base in a water-containing solvent.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, further comprising  
preparing the compound of formula (6) from a compound of formula (5) by reacting the  
compound of formula (5) with an ortho ester and then with (1R,2S)-2-  
fluorocyclopropylamine or a salt thereof;

~~wherein the compound represented by formula (6) is prepared by reacting a compound represented by~~

where the compound of formula (5) is:



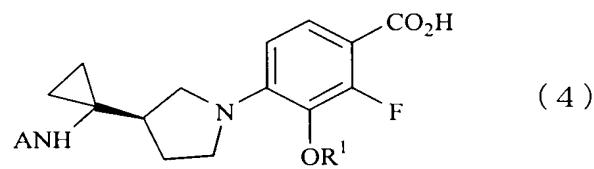
wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a lower alkyl group, A represents an amino-protecting group, and R<sup>2</sup> represents a lower alkyl group  
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and A are as defined above, with an ortho-ester and then with (1R,2S)-2-fluorocyclopropylamine or a salt thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 2, further comprising preparing the compound of formula (5) from a compound of formula (4) by converting the compound of formula (4) to an acid halide with a halogenating agent or to an acylimidazole with a carbonyldiimidazole condensing agent, and then reacting the resultant product with a magnesium salt of a lower alkyl monoester of malonic acid; or,

converting the compound of formula (4) to an acid halide in the presence of a base, with a lower alkyl monoester of malonic acid;

~~wherein the compound represented by formula (5) is prepared by converting a compound represented by~~

where formula (4) is:

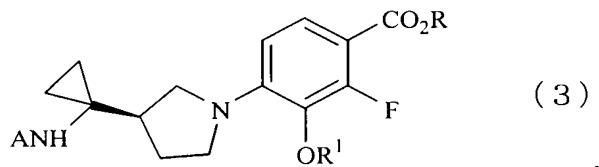


wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a lower alkyl group, and A represents an amino-protecting group

~~wherein R<sup>+</sup> and A are as defined above to an acid halide with a halogenating agent or to an acylimidazole with a carbonyldiimidazole condensing agent, and then reacting the resultant product with a magnesium salt of a lower alkyl monoester of malonic acid, or, in the presence of a base, with a lower alkyl monoester of malonic acid.~~

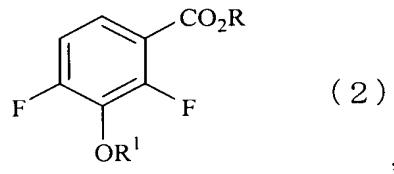
Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 3, further comprising preparing the compound of formula (4) by hydrolyzing a compound of formula (3), wherein the compound represented by formula (4) is prepared by hydrolyzing a compound represented by

where formula (3) is:



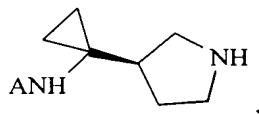
wherein R represents a lower alkyl group, R<sup>1</sup> represents a lower alkyl group, and A represents an amino-protecting group and R<sup>+</sup> and A are as defined above.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 4, further comprising preparing the compound of formula (3) wherein the compound represented by formula (3) is prepared by reacting a compound represented by formula (2) in a solvent which dissolves the compound of formula (2):



wherein R and R<sup>1</sup> are as defined above R represents a lower alkyl group and R<sup>1</sup> represents a lower alkyl group;

with a compound represented by the following formula:



wherein A represents an amino-protecting group

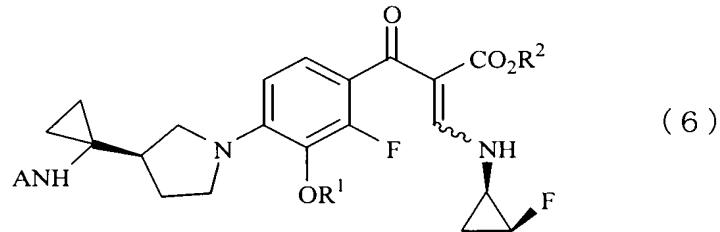
is as defined above in a solvent which dissolves the compound of formula (2).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim [[4]] 5, wherein the solvent is a highly polar solvent.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 6, wherein the highly polar solvent is one selected from the group consisting of dimethylsulfoxide, N,N-dimethylformamide and ionic liquids.

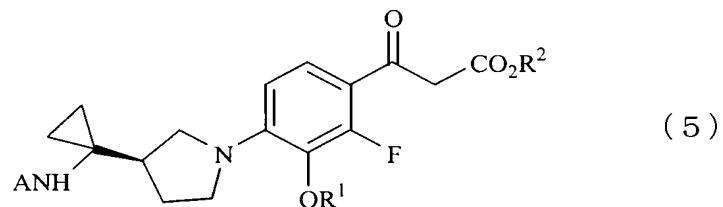
Claim 8 (Original): The process according to claim 5, wherein the solvent is dimethylsulfoxide.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A compound represented by formula (6):



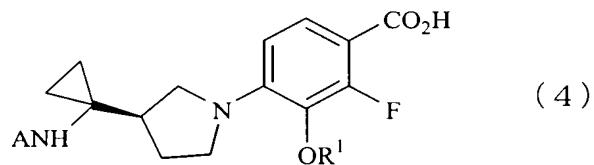
wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> represent each independently a lower alkyl group and A represents an amino-protecting group.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A compound represented by formula (5):



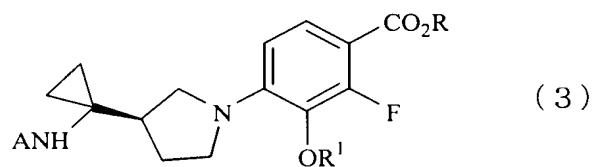
wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> represent each independently a lower alkyl group and A represents an amino-protecting group.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A compound represented by formula (4):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a lower alkyl group and A represents an amino-protecting group.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn): A compound represented by formula (3):



wherein R and R' represent each independently a lower alkyl group and A represents an amino-protecting group.